



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WAINSCOTT WATER DISTRICT WATER MAIN HOOK-UP FINANCING PROGRAM COMES TO AN END

Property owners within the Wainscott Water District, established in early July 2018, had approximately two years to take advantage of town financing that allows repayment of private hook-up costs over time, through incremental payback on town tax bills

May 15 mailing informed all within the water district of June 15 decision deadline; Town must be informed by June 15 if property owners wish to use financing program

The Town of East Hampton extended water mains throughout the Wainscott area in response to detections of perfluorinated chemicals (PFOA/PFOS) in some private wells, absorbing the \$12 million cost of the project undertaken by the Suffolk County Water Authority. An approximately \$5 million state grant will reduce the overall cost to town taxpayers.

Owners of the 520 properties within the water district were offered the opportunity to have the cost of their private service line hook-ups to the water main — a cost that could not legally be borne by the municipality and which is typically allocated to private property owners — paid for upfront by the Town and amortized over time through an additional charge on individual annual tax bills.

While a number of property owners took advantage of the program, others opted to pay a private plumber to install their service line hook-ups. Cost estimates received from private plumbers were found to be considerably lower than the cost of going through the contractor engaged by the Water Authority. Requirements that must be met by public works contractors incur extra costs, driving up prices.

In order to allow East Hampton Town to issue a bond this summer to cover the upfront cost of financing the private hook-ups, water district property owners have been given a June 15 deadline to notify the town of their intent to use town financing. Notification can be made by phoning the Supervisor's office, or by email to JPilgrim@EHamptonNY.gov. Property owners must then enter into a contract with the Suffolk County Water Authority by July 15.

Anyone within the Wainscott Water District, or within proximity to any water main, may hook up to the mains at any time by contracting with the Suffolk County Water Authority and engaging a plumber to do the necessary work.

As of today, Suffolk County Water Authority reports that 395 Wainscott property owners have accessed, or are in the process of accessing the water main, a 76 percent participation rate.